



# FLORIDA HERITAGE

SUMMER 1997

## Treasure Coast Treasure

*Stuart is a preservation success*

## A Jewel for a People

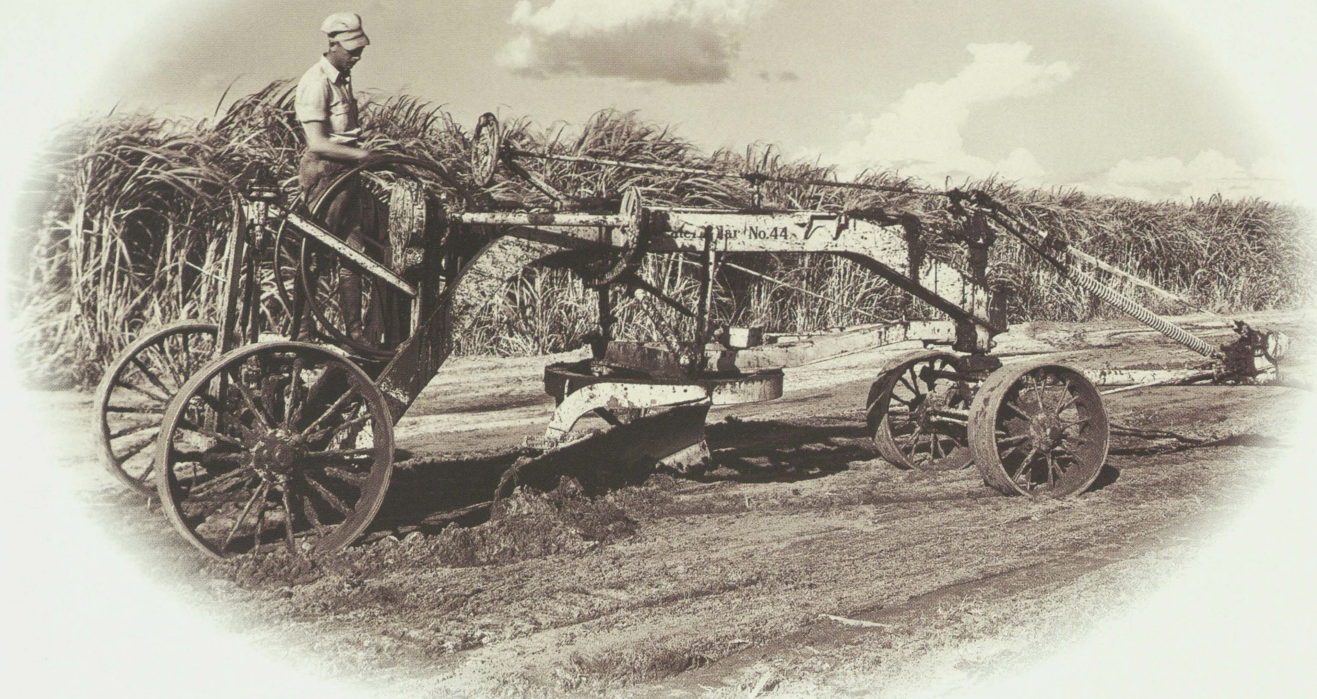
*The Sanford L. Ziff Jewish Museum of Florida*

## Wakulla Springs

**A colorful history, wildlife and natural beauty**

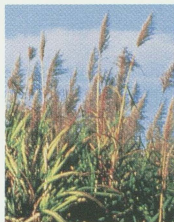


# WE'VE SEEN A LOT OF CHANGES IN FLORIDA



**W**hen we came here in 1931 to grow sugar cane, Florida looked quite a bit different than it does today. There were a lot fewer people and a lot smaller towns. But even then, Florida was known as a place that attracted new people and new businesses with new ideas about how to do things. People just like the folks at U.S. Sugar Corp.

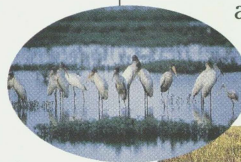
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and we own our company.

We believe that we can work together to preserve Florida's environment and keep Florida a place where new people and businesses are still welcome.



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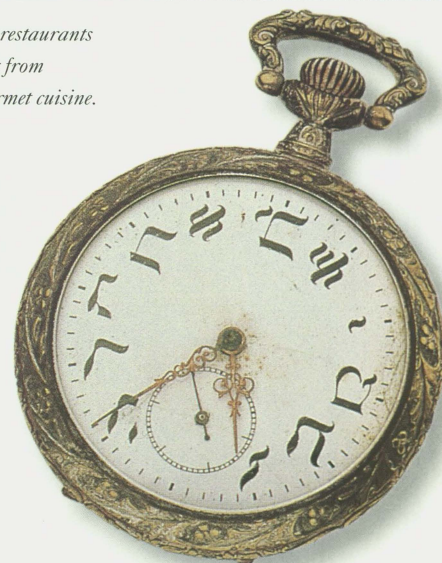


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*Downtown Stuart restaurants  
serve up everything from  
hamburgers to gourmet cuisine.*

20

*More than 20,000 items of Jewish  
history and culture are included in  
the Ziff Museum's collection.*





# CRACKER!

*THE CRACKER CULTURE  
IN FLORIDA HISTORY*

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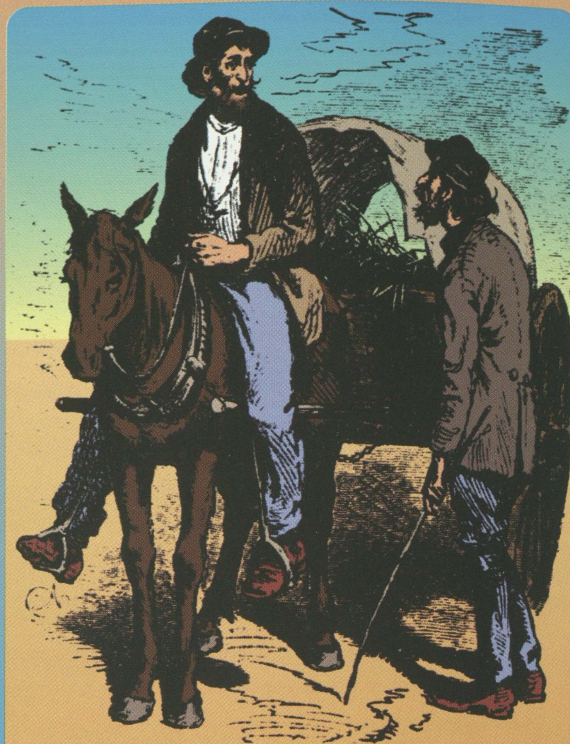
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THE FLORIDA KEYS & KEY WEST  
*Come as you are*

FLORIDA HERITAGE





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For more information about programs of the Division of Historical Resources, visit our Website at <http://www.dos.state.fl.us/>.

## FROM THE SECRETARY

# VACATION CLOSE TO HOME AT FLORIDA'S HISTORIC PLACES

Summer is a great time to visit Florida's many historic places. From anywhere in the state, you can plan a great weekend trip that can be fun and educational for the whole family. Many communities have lovingly restored their downtowns and you can lunch in a historic building and spend the night in a bed and breakfast built at the turn of the century. How about a tour of an antebellum plantation or a leisurely drive down a country road where vestiges of Florida's past still linger?

Here is another idea for great summer fun. Florida is full of historic springs and waterways, and in this issue we spotlight one of the best: Wakulla Springs near Tallahassee. We also visit the town of Stuart, where you can find shops, galleries and restaurants in historic buildings and a 1925 theater restored as a performing arts center.

This issue also salutes the 1997 Florida Folk Heritage Award recipients, whom I had the honor of meeting at the Florida Folk Festival in White Springs in May. Another article visits the Sanford P. Ziff Jewish Museum in Miami Beach, a beautifully renovated Art Deco synagogue that now houses examples of Jewish traditional arts.

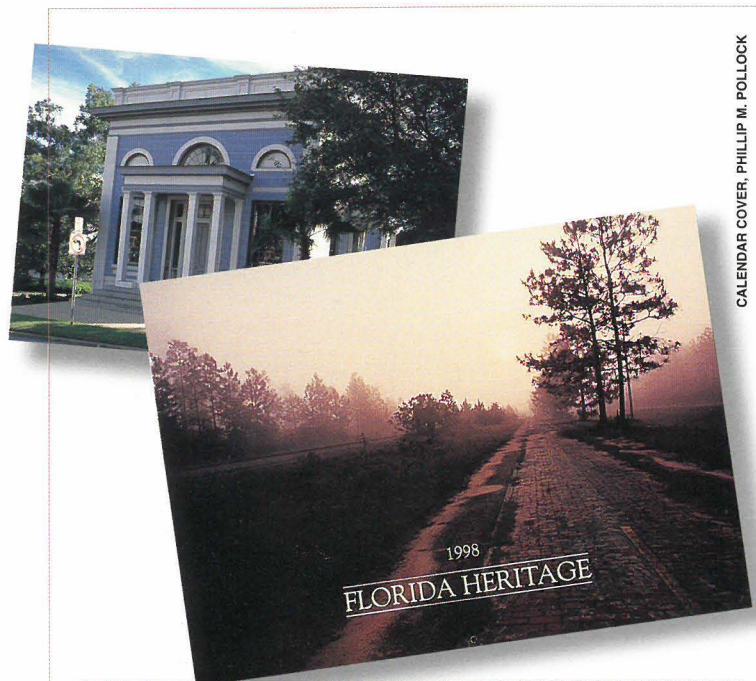
I hope you enjoy this issue of *Florida Heritage* and that you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

*Sandra Mortham*

**Sandra B. Mortham**  
Secretary of State







CALENDAR COVER, PHILLIP M. POLLOCK

## 1998 FLORIDA HERITAGE CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

The 1998 Florida Heritage Calendar, a twelve-month calendar that celebrates a selection of Florida's fascinating architecture and historic landmarks with stunning full color photography, is now available. It is rich and diverse—certainly a treasure to be enjoyed by all.

*In the Florida Heritage Calendar, you will find the following:*

- A mysterious old brick road in northwest Florida.
- John Ringling's magnificent mansion in Sarasota.
- The charming 1841 Union Bank building in Tallahassee.
- The Beaux Arts style Carnegie Library in St. Petersburg.
- South Florida's oldest plantation, the Gamble house.
- The opulent Ponce de Leon Hotel, now Flagler College.
- The grand and historic Venetian pool in Coral Gables.
- A Classic Revival home in Key West.
- Frank Lloyd Wright's Annie Pfeiffer Chapel in Lakeland.
- A rustic tobacco barn in the panhandle.
- The significant Freedom Tower in Miami.
- The haunting remains of Fort Pickens on the Gulf of Mexico.
- The eerie stone ruins of the Dunlawton Sugar Mill plantation.

The calendar is available for \$11.95.

Make your check payable to **Florida Department of State**  
and mail to:

**Florida Heritage Calendar, Bureau of Historic Preservation**  
500 S. Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

### EXHIBITION

## A. E. "Bean" Backus

### *Inducted in the Florida Artist Hall of Fame*

*Beginning November 13, the Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee will host an exhibit of the paintings of A.E. "Bean" Backus, who was inducted posthumously into the Florida Artist Hall of Fame earlier this year.*

*The exhibit will consist of many paintings that highlight the Backus style of bold knife strokes and vivid use of color. He was greatly influenced by Claude Monet, and Backus mimicked the French Impressionist when capturing the light, mood and seasonal changes in Florida's landscape.*

*Backus was a self-taught artist born in Fort Pierce in 1906. He abandoned his career as a sign painter to work full time as an artist shortly after World War II. Backus painted out of his home studio where he attracted friends, musicians and artists. Later, a group of Backus' followers built a gallery at Indian River Memorial Park in Fort Pierce to show and encourage local art and to house Backus' paintings. After his death in 1990, the gallery was named the A.E. "Bean" Backus Gallery. —PMP.*





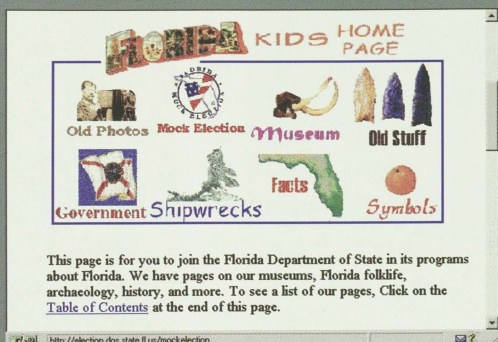
# GET CAUGHT IN THE WEB

## of Florida History

FLORIDA'S PAST IS NOW ONLY A FEW MOUSE CLICKS AWAY, courtesy of the Division of Historical Resources' web pages. The Division went online in 1995;

today it has more than 250 pages on the World Wide Web with more in the works. In January 1997, the site was ranked in the top five per cent of all web sites by the Lycos Corporation, a major web search engine.

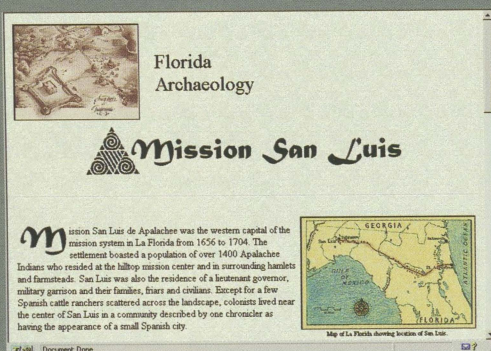
The Division's home page at <http://www.dos.state.fl.us/dhr/> has links to dozens of pages about archaeology, folklife, historic preservation and the Museum of Florida History. Filled with colorful photographs, graphics, drawings and pages of informative



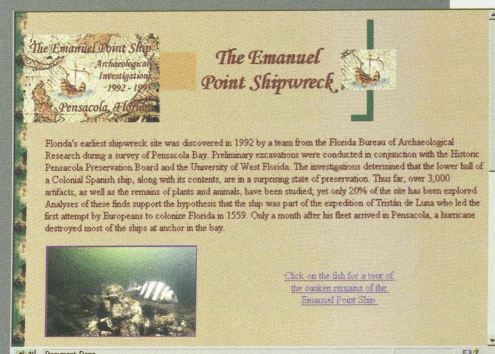
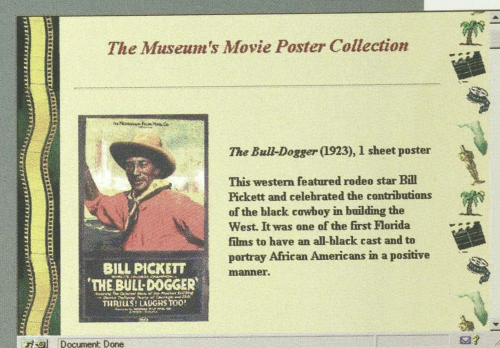
text, the site shows how the Division's programs, people and events explore and preserve Florida's history and cultural resources.

Here's a sample of what's online now: The site's archaeological pages let you visit Florida's six underwater archaeological preserves through site plans and drawings and examine recent research papers about Florida archaeology. Heritage publications has links to pages of feature articles from back issues of *Florida Heritage* magazine

and to other publications like the *Florida Black Heritage Trail* and the *Florida Cuban Heritage Trail*. The Museum of Florida History's pages explore its collections, current and coming exhibits and the care and preservation of furniture, quilts and oil paintings. A Florida Kids page will take young web surfers to hundreds of links designed for them.



photographs and other images of Florida's past are available through the Division of Library Services Florida State Archives photographic collection. This site has a searchable data base for easy browsing of the Archive's collection of thousands of historic photographs, postcards and other images.—M.Z.



ABOVE  
Red  
Hibiscus  
BELOW  
Palms at  
Fort  
Pierce  
Inlet



TALLAHASSEE

# A SLAVE SHIP SPEAKS

Exhibit Open Through August 24

Through August 24, the Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee presents the exhibit, *A Slave Ship Speaks—The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie*. This exhibit focuses on the English merchant slave ship *Henrietta Marie*, which wrecked off the coast of Key West in 1700.

The *Henrietta Marie* is the only identified merchant slave ship excavated in the Americas to have sunk in the course of the slave trade. When she sank, the ship was on the final leg of her journey after offloading a cargo of enslaved Africans in Jamaica. Archaeologist David Moore began excavating this shipwreck in 1983. In the course of the excavation, historians, archaeologists, and curators have worked diligently to preserve the integrity of this important discovery.

Artifacts in the exhibit include the ship's bell, inscribed with the ship's name and the date, "1699." The bell was the primary object that gave up the ship's identity during excavation. Also included are colorful trade beads, shackles, pewter tankards, and an ivory tusk that was presumably acquired in an African trade in the course of travel. For more information, call (850) 488-1484. —PMP.



## Folklife Institute Conferences

The Division of Historical Resources is presenting the Florida Folklife Institute, a series of six two-day community conferences at sites around the state. The project is being funded by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council. The purpose of the Institute is to train community members to identify and use traditional cultural resources in their communities. Each conference will consist of sessions presented by folklorists and local tradition bearers.

The first Institute took place in May in Panama City. Coming up this fall are conferences in Green Cove Springs and Eatonville. During 1998, Institutes will take place in Melbourne, Ochopee and Century Village. There is no admission charge, although space is limited. For more information, call (850) 487-2333. —R.E.

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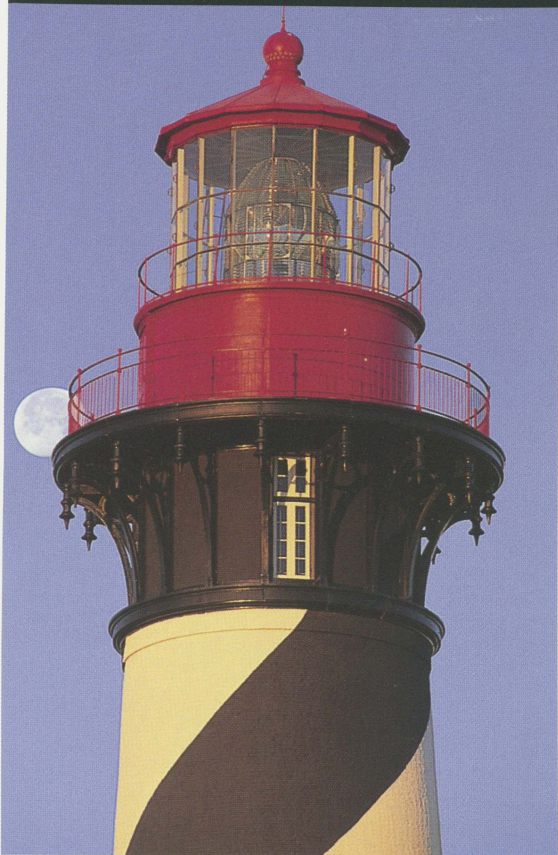
[www.historical-museum.org](http://www.historical-museum.org)



Funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts; with Historical Museums Grants-In-Aid Program assistance provided by the Bureau of Historical Museums, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State; Sandra B. Mortham, Secretary of State; sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Arts Council; and with the support of the Metropolitan Dade County Cultural Affairs Council and the Metropolitan Dade County Board of County Commissioners.



# NEW LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION KEEPS THE LIGHTS SHINING



With a coastline of more than 1,100 miles, water has defined much of Florida's history. Now a new organization, the Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc. (FLA), has been formed dedicated to the preservation of these navigational sentinels. Created as an umbrella organization for the managers of Florida's thirty historic lighthouses, the FLA held its first meeting in the summer of 1996, coinciding with the re-lighting of the restored Cape Florida Lighthouse at Key Biscayne.

Now officially incorporated, the FLA has begun an aggressive membership, fundraising and publicity campaign. It has divided the state into three districts—East Coast, the Keys and the West Coast—and produces a quarterly newsletter, *The Flash*, to provide detailed news and information

about each of the area's lighthouses. "We're especially concerned with deteriorating or threatened lighthouses," says association president Ann Caneer. "What we'd like to do is establish a non-profit organization for each to restore and maintain them for the public to visit and enjoy."

Internet users can learn more about the

Florida Lighthouse Association through its web site at [www.netfuture.com/fla/](http://www.netfuture.com/fla/) or by calling (904) 761-1821. The association's historian Neil Hurley has compiled a very comprehensive web site on Florida's lighthouses with links to other lighthouse related sites; its address is [www.erols.com/lighthouse/home.html](http://www.erols.com/lighthouse/home.html).—M.Z.

## TIFFANY AND OTHER TREASURES.



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# WAKULLA SPRING

BY PHILLIP M. POLLOCK

Florida's landscape is speckled by more than 300 limestone springs where chilled water gushes out at the rate of millions of gallons per day. The historic Wakulla Springs State Park south of Tallahassee is one of the state's oldest commercially developed natural attractions.

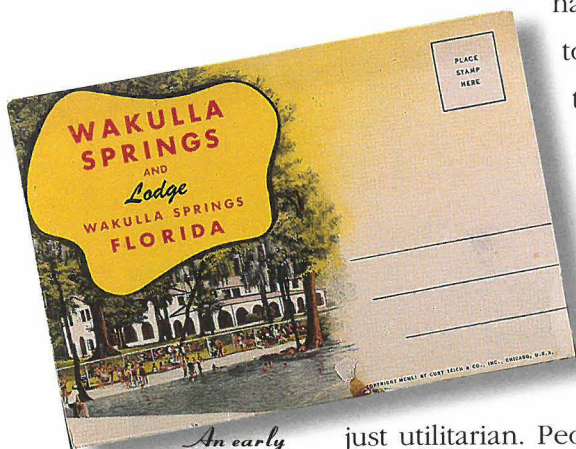
But, long before this development occurred in the 1930s, people were taking advantage of the inherent qualities of the spring. In fact, Florida's first people lived on or near spring sites 12,000 years ago, and at Wakulla Springs, evidence of these prehistoric occupations is very strong. Mastodon bones have been dredged from the 185-foot depths of the spring and from the soil nearby, while tools used to hunt these early mammals

have been unearthed adjacent to their remains. It's apparent that these earliest Floridians needed the spring and knew also that the animals they hunted required it as well.

Today water is still the central attraction, but its function is no longer

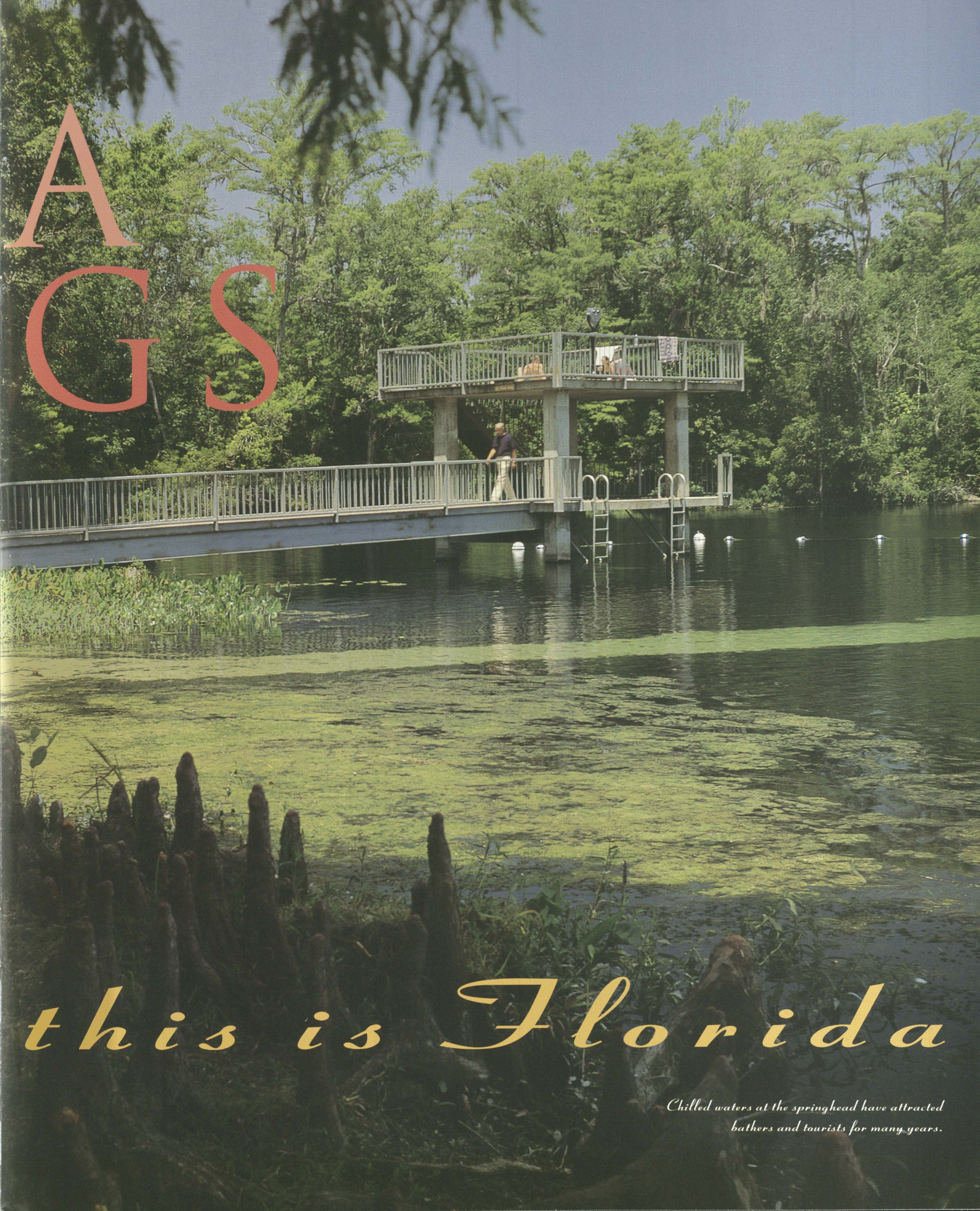
just utilitarian. People travel from throughout Florida and the U.S. to experience the wonder of the springs and its beautiful surroundings.

*An early postcard folder with views of the springs.*



PHILLIP M. POLLOCK



A scenic photograph of a springhead in Florida. In the foreground, dark, jagged cypress tree roots emerge from the water. The water is covered in a thick layer of bright green algae. A wooden walkway with metal railings extends from the left towards a raised wooden platform in the center. A person is walking on the bridge. The platform has a railing and a small sign. In the background, a dense forest of green trees lines the shore under a clear blue sky.

AGS

*this is Florida*

*Chilled waters at the springhead have attracted  
bathers and tourists for many years.*



# WAKULLA SPRINGS

T

ourism here began in earnest in 1937 when Edward Ball built the Wakulla Springs Lodge after purchasing nearly 4,000 acres of property along the Wakulla River a few years earlier. Ball established the St. Joe Paper Company that comprised millions of acres of land in Florida and Georgia, and he was the leading industrialist in Florida for nearly fifty years. William Marsh and Harold Saxelbye, Jacksonville's most prominent architects during the 1920s, designed the 27-room lodge. The building is designed in the Mediterranean Revival style, with a Spanish-influenced red tile roof and multi-colored tiles at the rear entrance. Broad archways along the front and back of the lodge lead to the lobby, the



largest and most elegant space in the building.

As in many resort lodges of its time, the building's lobby has a feeling of rustic elegance. Old lighting fixtures, painted beams and moldings, a marble floor, and wall hangings detail this fine room. The lobby's most distinctive feature is its hand-painted, pecky cypress beamed ceiling. Small whimsical wildlife scenes, including ibis, egrets and herons, are painted on the ceiling, give it an Art Nouveau flair.

Sculptural Great Blue Heron andirons appear in the lobby fireplace and similar shore birds are incorporated in the wrought iron banister leading to the second floor.

Other features in the lobby range from the old backlit postcard-like photographs of park scenes to the rosewood-paneled elevator with brass accordion-like grill work. A museum case contains "Old Joe," an alligator that lived near the spring and

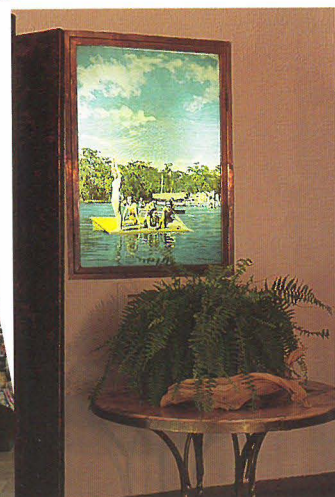
*An arched entrance welcomes visitors and guests into the Lodge.*

was estimated to be 200 years old at the time he died. It's just the sort of thing you'd expect to see in an old Florida country lodge.

Adjacent to the lobby is the dining room, lined by large arched windows. Simple egg and dart cornice details and wrought iron chandeliers complete this space where fine southern dining is available just as it has been for years. For a lighter meal or snack, try the sixty-foot marble Wakulla Lodge Soda Fountain, where you can buy lemonade, sandwiches and great souvenirs. The lodge's recently refurbished twenty-seven guest rooms, complete with porcelain bath fixtures are tasteful and comfortable.

*The lodge was designed by Jacksonville's*

PHILLIP M. POLLOCK



*(Left) The soda fountain with its expansive marble counter adds to the Wakulla Springs appeal.*



*Painted  
vignettes  
punctuate the  
rustic pecky  
cypress beams  
overhead in the  
lobby.*

*most prominent architects during the 1920s.*



# WAKULLA SPRINGS

WAKULLA SPRINGS STATE PARK

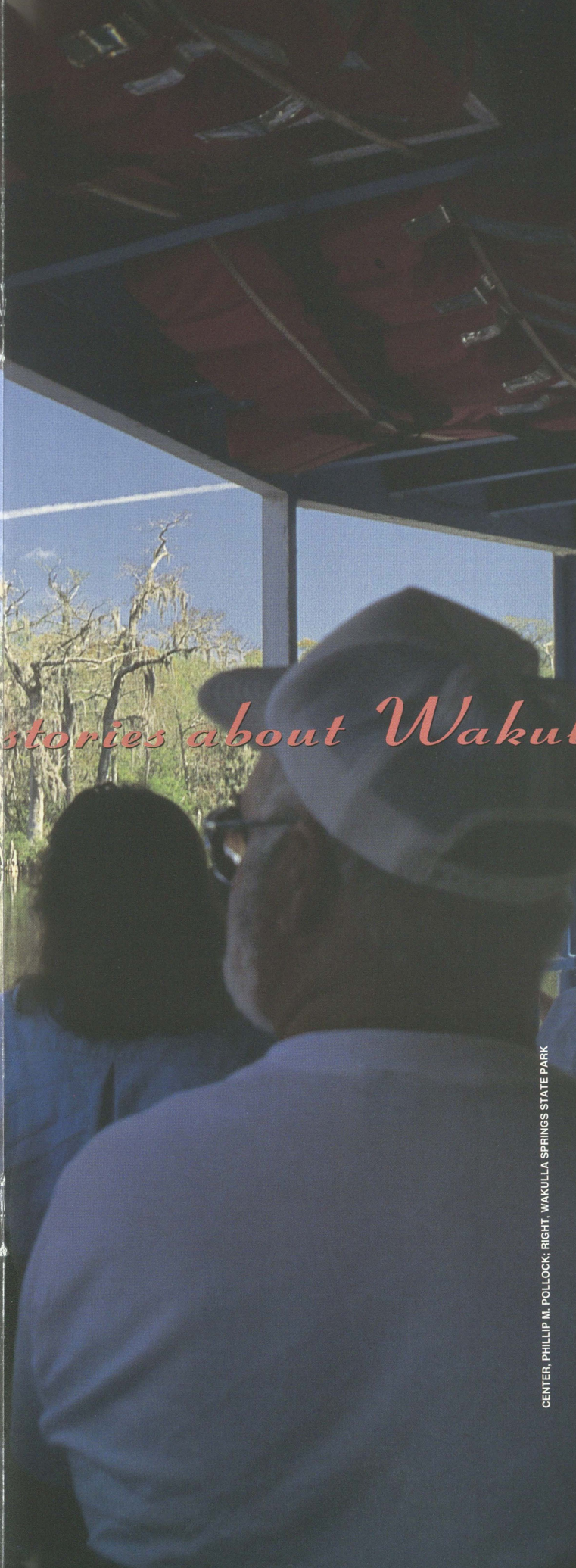


*Versed in river lore, tour guides tell colorful*

*Adventuresome  
swimmers are  
cooled by the  
springs, above,  
while other  
visitors enjoy  
the river tour,  
right.  
Opposite page,  
the mottled  
limpkin is only  
one of the many  
birds sighted on  
the boat tours.*







CENTER, PHILLIP M. POLLOCK. RIGHT, WAKULLA SPRINGS STATE PARK

## stories about Wakulla's exotic wildlife.

Of course, the real attraction at Wakulla Springs is the springs. The crystal clear, icy cold waters have been used in motion pictures like the 1952 *Creature from the Black Lagoon* and parts of *Tarzan's Secret Treasure*, with the addition of palm trees for Johnny Weissmuller's more languid moments in front of the camera. At the time, Newton Perry was the springs' manager and a former swimming coach who served as a stunt man in several Tarzan films. Local citizens were often enlisted as extras.

During World War II, soldiers based at Camp Gordon Johnston in nearby Carabelle

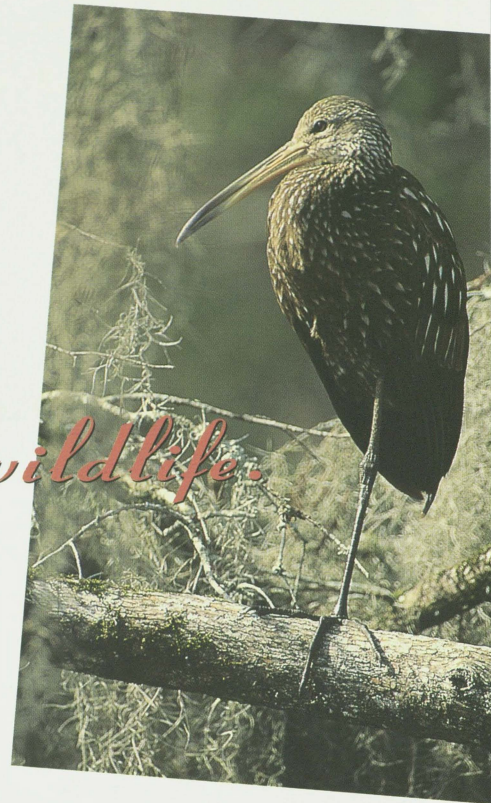
came to Wakulla Springs for training exercises as well as recreation. Around the same time, *Amphibious Fighters* was filmed here by Paramount, a short subject film that ultimately won an Academy Award.

Through the years, the springs have provided area residents with cool relief from sweltering summers while showcasing diverse wildlife. The Wakulla Spring boil, in combination with the Sally Ward Spring entering from the northeast, serves as the origin of the Wakulla River, and glass-bottom boats provide daily tours along the water system.

Park rangers, versed in river lore, lead tours that are filled with colorful stories and fascinating information about the wildlife. "Alligators can scurry at the rate of 30 miles per hour in very short bursts," Ranger Allen Dial commented glibly. "You don't have to be faster than the alligator; you just have to be

faster than the person you're with."

A popular sight during the boat tours is the beautiful plumage displayed by the local bird populations. Iridescent purple



gallinule, mottled limpkin, soaring osprey and a host of gloriously colored ducks are just a sampling of the many birds along the river.

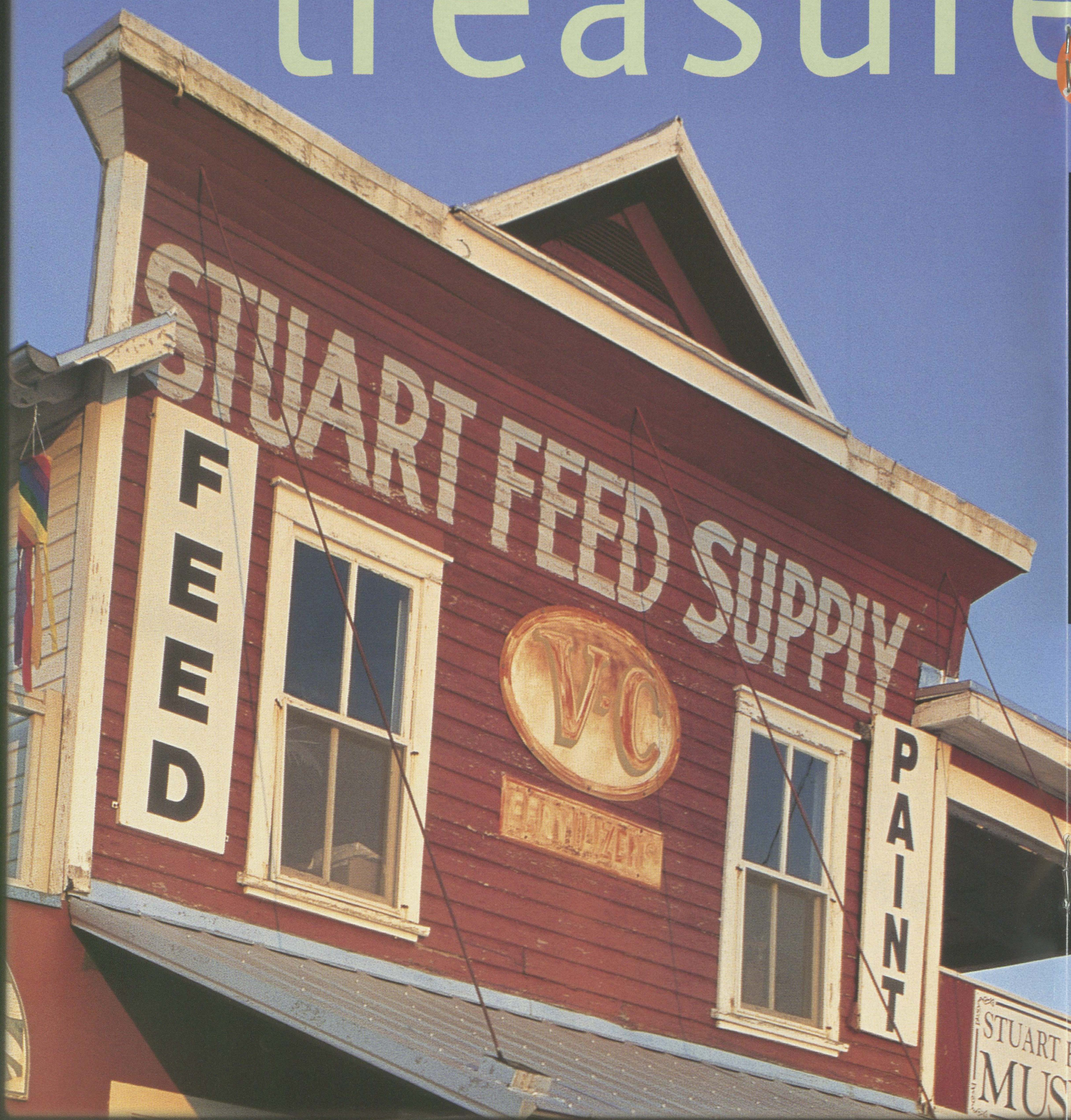
The wildlife and natural beauty at Wakulla Springs, in addition to the Springs' colorful history, make it well worth a visit. Now this is Florida! ■

### To Learn More

Wakulla Springs is located approximately 14 miles south of Tallahassee on State Road 267. For more information, call (850) 922-3633.



treasure





# coast treasure

stuart  
serves up  
small town  
atmosphere  
on florida's  
southeast  
coast

In 1894, the residents of Potsdam weren't very happy. Shortly after the Florida East Coast Railroad (FEC) began service to their tiny community north of Palm Beach, they grew annoyed by the way train



conductors were calling its name. By announcing it as "Pots . . . dam," it sounded less than flattering to some. After vigorous local complaints, the town was renamed for prominent businessman Homer T. Stuart, and the squabble ended.

The same FEC trains still rumble through Stuart today, past its blocks of historic downtown buildings now brimming with restaurants, antique shops, art galleries and, of course, the requisite small town diagonal parking. But ten years ago, downtown had a serious

parking problem—*no one* was parking there.

Occupancy was a bare 20 per cent, buildings stood in disrepair and an ungainly meeting of several streets dubbed "confusion corners" gave visitors a dubious welcome.



Left, the George W. Parks General Store dates from 1901. Upper and lower, numerous restaurants and sidewalk cafes fill downtown Stuart.





# looking for a solution,

the city and business community called in renowned urban planners Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk in 1988 for an answer. Their recommendation was simple: bad as things were, the situation wasn't hopeless. Instead of razing downtown, why not keep it? Armed with their vision and the assistance of the Florida Main Street program, things began to happen. A combination of \$12.5 million in private reinvestment and \$1.2 million in public

up Flagler Avenue to the Lyric Theatre and you'll find something going on almost every night. The "glue" which helps hold downtown together nightly, the Lyric is a 1925 Mediterranean Revival theater built as a vaudeville and motion picture house. Today, thanks to more than one million dollars of state historic preservation grants and matching local assistance, it has been restored as a performing arts center. Entertainment ranges from classic movies and children's live theater to ballet and Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

One block up the street is another Stuart landmark, the 1901 George W. Parks General Store. With its classic false front or "Western" style facade, this scarlet-colored building has stood practically unchanged for more than ninety years. Inside, the Stuart



gilbert's  
bar house of  
refuge is the  
last of its kind in  
florida.

funds, thousands of volunteer hours and a dynamic lineup of promotional events brought downtown Stuart out of the economic cellar.

Today, downtown's once confusing intersection has been transformed into Haney Circle, a landscaped round-a-bout graced by *Lady Abundance*, a bronze sculpture made for the 1939 New York World's Fair. More than ninety businesses now line its streets, including eleven restaurants serving up everything from hamburgers to gourmet cuisine. Its upscale shops, boutiques and galleries entice tens of thousands of visitors each year with treasures such as Peruvian earrings, Czech glass beads and fine art.

But downtown isn't just for tourists: a dry cleaners, locksmith and shoe repair serve the needs of residents as well.

Downtown Stuart doesn't close when the sun goes down. Walk

Heritage Museum has displays on pioneer life in Martin County.

Trying to follow the success which downtown Stuart has enjoyed is Jensen Beach. This distinctive small town on the Indian River has an atmosphere all its own, and is working hard to revitalize its waterfront downtown. Across the river is Martin County's oceanfront window, Hutchinson Island. Whatever your interests—fishing, boating, hiking, camping or history—you'll find it here. From Haney Circle, Hutchinson Island is about three miles, but watch your travel time during the winter season when Stuart's population swells by

several thousand.

Just outside of downtown is the Martin County Cultural Center. Another Stuart preservation success, the 1937 Art Deco style building



served as the Martin County Courthouse until it was slated to be torn down for a parking lot to serve the new courthouse. Officials heeded the advice of planner Andres Duane to save the building, and today it exhibits the works of local and nationally recognized artists.

The Elliot Museum on Hutchinson Island displays early local and American history with period costumes, exhibits and a collection of antique automobiles, including a 1902 Stanley Steamer. There are also autographed memorabilia from the Baseball Hall of Fame and a gallery which displays changing exhibits by prominent regional artists. Across from the Elliot, visit the Florida Oceanographic Society for a look at the area's natural history. Nicely interpreted nature trails wind through acres of coastal hammocks and mangrove forests.

Beyond the Elliot Museum on MacArthur Boulevard is Martin County's oldest building, Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge Museum. This sturdy landmark was built in 1875 to shelter shipwrecked sailors. In 1873, when a hurricane struck southeast Florida, the crew of a vessel wrecked by the storm managed to reach shore, only to find no aid was available to help them. A group of ten similar

"houses of refuge" were built shortly after along the southeast coast for the same purpose. The buildings were spaced at intervals along the coast so that shipwrecked victims who reached the shore could walk to one of them for shelter. Today, Martin County's House of Refuge is the last of its kind in Florida.

There's a sense of splendid isolation at the House of Refuge: waves crash against its rocky shore, gulls screech overhead and a narrow two-lane road with little traffic snakes quietly by. With its heavy porch posts and solid pine construction, the building has weathered Atlantic storms and gales for more than 120 years. Inside, exhibits and period rooms highlight pioneer life and explain how the building operated when it served as a haven for shipwrecked sailors. The nearby wooden tower is a reconstruction of a

World War II structure built for detecting enemy submarines.

Return to Stuart following Ocean Boulevard across the broad waters of the Indian River, so wide they appear almost as a bay. As it grows later, downtown takes on the burnished light of the setting sun. Shops close and restaurants and sidewalk cafes fill up, then empty. Another freight train rumbles into town, rushing by with a familiar clickitty-clack sound before it too disappears into the anonymity of the coming Florida night. ■

### *To Learn More*

Stuart is located about midway between Miami and Orlando off I-95; exit at State Route 76 for the five-mile ride into town. For more information call Stuart Main Street at (561) 286-2848 or the Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce at (561) 287-1088.

Stuart's  
historic  
Matthews  
House now  
serves as a  
bed and  
breakfast.



"Houses of  
refuge" offered  
shelter to ship-  
wrecked sailors.





For twelve years, the State of Florida has awarded Florida Folk Heritage Awards to the Floridians whose lifelong devotion to folk arts has enriched our state's cultural legacy. Like the National Heritage Awards, the Florida Folk Heritage Awards recognize authenticity, excellence and significance within the traditional arts and honor our most influential traditional artists. In 1997, Secretary of State Sandra B. Mortham, based on the recommendations of the Florida Folklife Council, selected four Floridians whose outstanding contributions merit Folk Heritage Awards. The prestigious awards were presented by Secretary Mortham at the Florida Folk Festival in May.

# 1997

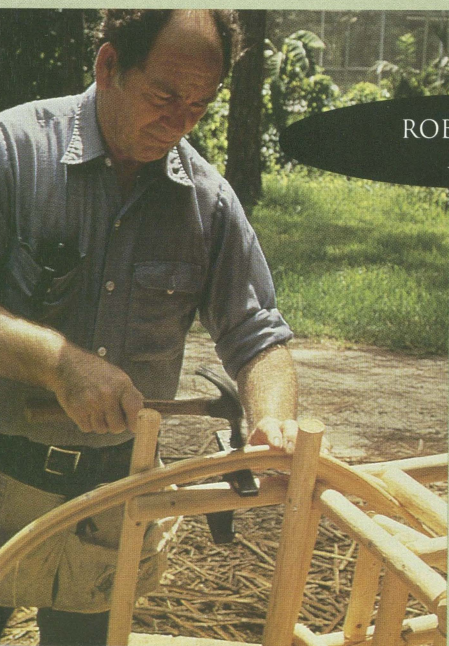
## florida folk heritage awards

BY TERESA HOLLINGSWORTH



MAUDE SCOTT  
Plant City

Maude Scott is one of eight children born to Abraham and Maude T. Lewis. Mr. Lewis was both Cherokee and Kongo, but learned most of his healing arts from his Native American mother. Scott followed in her father's footsteps, learning about traditional medicine as a young woman. Her training began in early childhood, when she frequently assisted her father in collecting and preparing herbs for treatments. Her father had a vast knowledge of wild herbal plants and she learned from him well into adulthood. At age seventy-nine, she not only diagnoses and treats those who request her help, but delivers lectures and seminars in Florida, across the United States and in the Bahamas. She also provides her students and friends with recipes and suggestions for maintaining their health. Scott has served as a master artist in the Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Program and has demonstrated at the Florida Folk Festival.

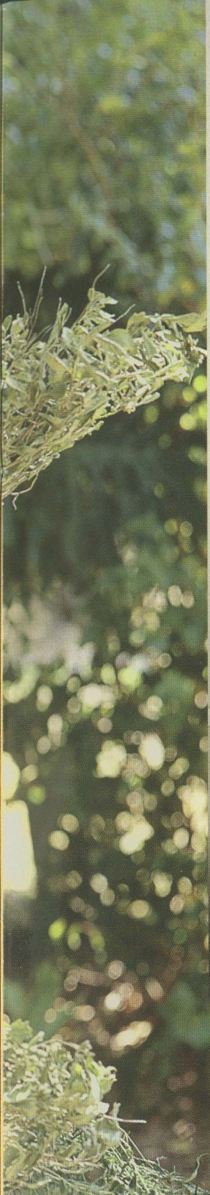


ROBERT RUDD  
Bronson

Robert Rudd learned the craft of building cypress furniture from his father. Born in 1926, Rudd grew up in south Florida where his father harvested cypress trees and vines from local swamps. Many years of working on loud construction sites damaged his hearing, and he was forced to look for an alternative way to support his family. He turned to furniture making for employment. As a young man he had watched his father construct arm chairs, love seats and swings. Rudd expanded his own repertoire to include beds, tables, stools and chaise lounges. When cypress wood became increasingly unavailable in Palm Beach County, Rudd and his wife began driving to Bronson every few weeks where they would spend several days camping and harvesting wood. A few years ago, Rudd and his wife moved to Bronson to be close to the cypress supply. He has participated in the Palm Beach County Folk Arts in Education Program, the Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Program, Rural Folklife Days and the Florida Folk Festival.



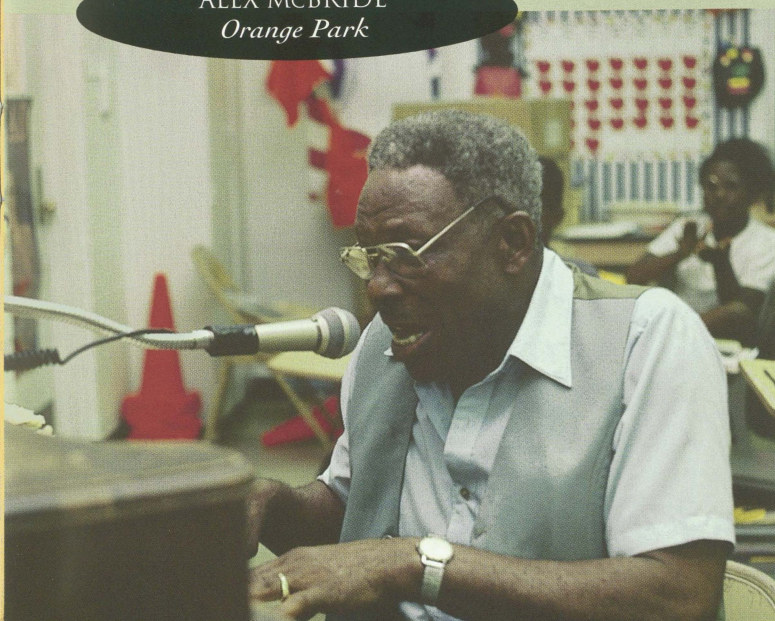




THE EPSTEIN BROTHERS  
*Tamarac & Plantation*

The Epstein Brothers have dedicated more than half a century to performing the traditional music of one of Florida's oldest and largest cultural communities. Julie, Max and Willie Epstein grew up on New York's Lower East Side where they were introduced to *klezmer* music. As a young man, Max played the violin during silent movie screenings and the clarinet at Eastern European-run cabarets. The Epsteins honed their musical skills as adolescents, but did not play as a group until World War II. They played together as the "Epstein Brothers Orchestra" and performed with other orchestras in clubs, catering halls and hotels, and at weddings and other festive occasions. In the late 1960s, the brothers moved to Broward County. Many music experts consider the Epsteins to be among the last musicians of their generation to learn from traditional European musicians. The Epstein Brothers have made many records and were the subject of the 1996 award-winning documentary film "A Tickle in the Heart." Although retired, they have provided music and entertainment to countless senior centers, synagogues, Jewish community centers, and Holocaust survivor groups.

ALEX MCBRIDE  
*Orange Park*



Alex McBride was born in Jacksonville in 1915. Although he learned to play the piano from his mother, he never read music, but played by ear. His mother encouraged him to play in church, though he was tempted by the sounds of blues and boogie-woogie music from local juke joints. McBride would sneak away from his family's home to listen to more "worldly" music when possible. Even though he was barely a teenager, McBride began to play in local clubs. After his service in the Army, he traveled throughout the southeast playing the piano for parties and private clubs. By 1940, he was using the stage name "Piano Slim" while he played the cotton and fruit belts throughout the South. McBride primarily played in African-American clubs, but he occasionally performed in white establishments in the Deep South. He also worked as a disc jockey in Alaska. He has performed at the Florida Folk Festival and the University of Florida in Gainesville, and participated as a demonstrator for the Duval County Folklife in Education Program for ten years.



THE SANFORD L. ZIFF JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA

BY TINA BUCUVALAS AND MICHAEL ZIMNY

# A JEWEL FOR THE PEOPLE





Marcia Zerivitz, Executive Director of the Sanford L. Ziff Jewish Museum of Florida, stands in the glowing light of the museum she helped create. Exhibits and thousands of artifacts—historic and contemporary—from Florida and around the world are now proudly displayed in a restored Art Deco synagogue. “The stereotype of the American-Jewish experience is New York City,” Zerivitz says. “But people who come to our museum are amazed to learn Jewish history in Florida is so lengthy.”

Since Jews first settled in Pensacola in 1763, they have played an important role in Florida’s history. But until 1995, no museum devoted exclusively to Florida’s Jewish history and culture existed. To chronicle their experience and cultural traditions, a dedicated group of community activists and scholars founded the organization MOSAIC in 1984. MOSAIC spent six years of exhaustive groundwork, fundraising and collecting thousands of artifacts, momentos and pho-

Street, also seemed particularly appropriate to MOSAIC, since through the 1930s Jews were restricted to living south of Fifth Street.

The congregation Beth Jacob was established in 1927 but quickly outgrew its 1929 synagogue. In 1936, its elders turned to prominent Miami Beach architect Henry Hohauser, himself a member of Beth Jacob, to design a new synagogue. Hohauser did not disappoint the congregation. He designed a classically-inspired building topped by a Moorish copper dome, but gave the building a decidedly modernistic feeling by using rich Art Deco ornamentation.

Beth Jacob had fallen on hard times by the time MOSAIC negotiated a 99-year lease on the building in 1992. A dwindling congregation had forced the building to close in 1988, and the effects of Hurricane Andrew

building’s balcony, which is reserved for women in Orthodox Jewish synagogues, was converted for use as the museum’s offices but glassed in to retain a feeling of open space. On April 2, 1995, Florida’s first museum of Jewish history and culture opened.

A visit to the Jewish Museum of Florida is a journey to both a beautifully preserved landmark and a unique collection of photographs, artifacts and other treasures of one of



## The Sanford L. Ziff Museum in Miami Beach traces more than 230 years of Jewish history and culture in Florida

INSET: *The simple exterior of the museum hints at its richly ornamented interior.*

TOP RIGHT: *An intrinsic part of Jewish faith is storytelling and the Ziff Museum continues this tradition. Rabbi Rami Shapiro, an accomplished narrator of Jewish folktales, shares stories with a group of children.*

tographs of Jewish life in Florida. In 1990, they produced a traveling exhibit, “MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida,” which would go on to become the core of the future Ziff Museum.

As the exhibit traveled across Florida and the nation between 1990 and 1994, MOSAIC’s Board of Directors dreamed of a permanent home for the collection. Their eyes fell on the landmark Beth Jacob Synagogue in Miami Beach, built for the city’s first Jewish congregation. The synagogue’s location, south of Fifth

Street, only seemed to push the deteriorating structure ever closer to demolition. Critics chided MOSAIC for their choice of the building and its location, then in a depressed area of Miami Beach.

The critics were wrong. Between 1993 and 1995, MOSAIC completed an award-winning, \$1.5 million restoration of the building. To complete the work, the organization faced a myriad of technical problems, among them how to preserve the original character of the building, yet make it work as a museum. This meant retaining its original sloping floor, but at the same time providing the flat space required by museum exhibits. The solution came through custom-designed exhibit panels that could accommodate the original floor and provide a flat surface for displays and panels. The

world’s great peoples. The museum’s simple, unassuming exterior gives little hint of what lies within: a richly ornamented space that still evokes a feeling of quiet reverence. Nearly eighty stained glass windows and fabulous Art Deco chandeliers and wall sconces cast a warm light that for decades welcomed the faithful to the Friday Sabbath.

A timeline wall at the museum’s entrance provides a quick overview of Jewish history in Florida, the United States and the world. Nearby, two videos tell the story of Jewish history in Florida and the restoration of the synagogue. The museum’s exhibit area is divided into two sections: displays along the walls, taken from the original MOSAIC traveling collection, which chronicle the history of Jews in Florida, and changing exhibits in the center of the museum.

The museum’s Collections and Research Center is the focus of its continuing acquisition program. Here are more than 20,000 items, including a wooden ark ornament from the B’nai Israel Synagogue in Pensacola chartered in 1899; a richly ornamented Passover plate used by an Apalachicola family in 1865, and a Torah pointer used in Florida for more than 125 years. On the lighter side,



historic photographs capture Miss Florida, Mena Williams, in Tallahassee in 1885 and Malvina Weiss frolicking through the waters of Miami Beach in 1925.

Objects and customs of present-day Jewish life are also a part of the museum. Among them is the ketubah, or marriage contract. One of mankind's oldest written documents, the ketubah is often a work of art adorned with beautiful designs and exquisite calligraphy. Because Jewish law states that a man cannot live with a woman unless they have a contract, the ketubah outlines such marital



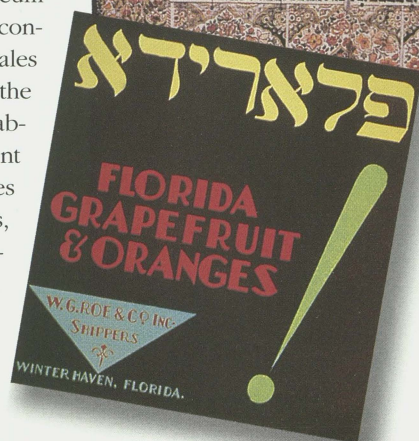
*A wooden ark ornament from B'nai Israel Synagogue in Pensacola chartered in 1899 is featured in the museum's vast collection.*

*"The building itself is the most important artifact we have in the museum's collection."- Marcia K. Zerivitz*

obligations as the provision of money, property rights and conjugal relations.

In the performing arts, the Ziff Museum offers an annual klezmer concert. Klezmer is a spirited form of largely improvisational music created by Jewish itinerant musicians in Eastern Europe. Originally played on violin, horn and drum, today the clarinet is usually the lead instrument, with the addition of a keyboard. South Florida klezmer bands play at a wide variety of community occasions, such as weddings, holiday parties, festivals, dances, concerts and bar or bat mitzvahs. The Epstein Brothers, recipients of the 1997 Florida Folk Heritage Award, are one of many acclaimed South Florida family klezmer bands.

Storytelling has been an intrinsic part of the Jewish faith since the earliest times, and the Ziff Museum offers regular programs that continue this tradition. Jewish folktales may reflect important points in the Judaic calendar, such as the Sabbath or holy festivals, or recount the philosophy and adventures of famous rabbis. In most cases, the tales illustrate a moral lesson, for instance taken from a sermon. Folktales are used in Hebrew schools to educate youngsters about Jewish his-



TOP: The ketubah is often a work of art.  
LEFT: A citrus label from Winter Haven.

tory and tradition. Certain stories are traditionally told during Passover, pe-

riods of mourning, marriage celebrations or Sabbath meals.

Mindful of its accomplishments, the Ziff Museum and MOSAIC look to future. Their main charge remains, through the museum, to maintain Jewish continuity, memory and history. But the Ziff Museum also opens its doors to the non-Jewish community, to encourage tolerance between people through education, learning and shared experience. It also continues its never-ending appeal for the donation of items of Florida Jewish history and tradition. "Our only problem now is space," says Executive Director Marcia Zerivitz. "We're running out of it." ■

### *To Learn More*

The Sanford L. Ziff Jewish Museum of Florida is located at 301 Washington Avenue in Miami Beach. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm, and is closed on Mondays and Jewish holidays. Admission is free on Saturdays.

For more information call (305) 672-5044 or visit the museum's web site at <http://gsni.com/jewish.html>. The catalog for the exhibit, *MOSAIC—Jewish life in Florida: A documentary exhibit from 1763 to the present*, is available through the Museum.



## Summer 1997

### Through August 10

Jacksonville

"Florida Craftsmen Phillip Ward Memorial Ceramics Exhibition." Historical overview of ceramics movement in Florida and those who have shaped it since the 1950s. Jacksonville Museum of Contemporary Art. (904) 398-8336.

### Through August 24

St. Petersburg

"Prints and Processes." Exhibit of prints and the processes by which they are made. Salvador Dali Museum. (813) 823-3767.

### Through August 24

Tallahassee

"A Slave Ship Speaks—The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie." Exhibit detailing the contents of an English merchant slave ship that wrecked off Key West in 1700. The Museum of Florida History. (904) 488-1484.

### Through August 31

Bradenton

"Florida Girls & Boys & Their Toys." Historical photographs of children at play, puppet theater, trunk filled with toys and games, plus a video featuring memorable toy commercials. South Florida Museum. (941) 746-4131.

### Through October 29

Miami Beach

"The Jews of Mainland Greater Miami—the First 100 Years." Exhibit of 300 photographs and various artifacts that depict Jewish family experiences since 1896. Sanford L. Ziff Jewish Museum of Florida. (305) 672-5044.

### Through October 30

St. Petersburg

"On the Edge of the Abyss." Ninety-three drawings by Holocaust survivor Ella Liebermann-Shiber. Tampa Bay Holocaust Memorial Museum and Educational Center. (813) 392-4678.

### Through November 9

West Palm Beach

"From Manet to Miro." Works from the Norton European collection spanning 1850 to 1950. The Norton Museum of Art. (561) 832-5196.

### Through January 1, 1998

Daytona Beach

"Florida Cracker Culture." Exhibit including a covered wagon, cracker store facade with original advertising, moonshine still, and paintings by Remington. Museum of Arts and Sciences. (904) 255-0285.

### Through January 4

Tampa

"Large Florida Birds." Exhibit of hand-colored etchings by Tampa artist John Costin of Florida birds and their environment. Museum of Science and Industry. (813) 987-6313.



Koreshan Unity  
Solar Festival,

### July 19-20

Everglades

Annual Everglades Music and Crafts Festival. American Indian heritage events, music, foods and alligator wrestling. Miccosukee Indian Village. (305) 223-8380.

### July 27-October 27

Gainesville

"The Spirit of Montmartre—Cabarets, Humor and the Avant-garde, 1875-1905." Prints, watercolors, books, drawings and posters that represent the era of the cabaret and beginnings of French avant-garde. Harn Museum of Art. (352) 392-9826.

"The Spirit of  
Montmartre—Cabarets,  
Humor and the Avant-  
garde, 1875-1905" Harn  
Museum of Art,  
Gainesville







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## CALENDAR

Continued from page 23.

### August 2

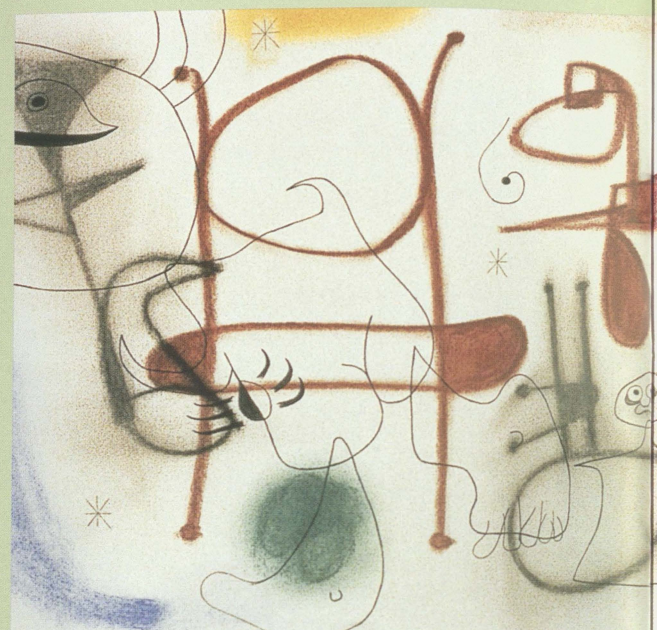
#### DeLeon Springs

A Day in Florida History. Reenactment of the Second Seminole Indian War in Florida in 1836. Storytelling, craft demonstrations and food. (904) 985-4212.

### August 10-12

#### Tampa

Historic Buildings Workshop—Preservation, Care and Maintenance of Historical Structures. Features lab sessions, renowned speakers, cost-effective maintenance and architectural conservation. Henry B. Plant Museum. (813) 254-1891.



NORTON MUSEUM OF ART

### "From Manet to Miro."

Works from the Norton European collection, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach

### August 15–September 28

#### Sarasota

"The Plant World." An exhibit of nineteenth century botanical lithographs. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. (941) 366-5731.

### August 16-17

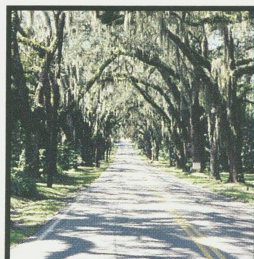
#### Cocoa

Fais Dos-Dos Cajun Festival and Craft Show. Art and craft show, cajun and dixie music, ethnic foods at F. Burton Smith Park. (407) 632-7445.

### September 1

#### Dade City

Pioneer Florida Day. Arts and crafts show, crafts demonstrations, storytelling, food, historical exhibits and music. Pioneer Florida Museum Association. (352) 567-0262.



## Take a Self-Guided Tour of Historic Citrus County

Come visit our little piece of paradise, located less than 90 minutes from Tampa or Orlando.

Start your tour in Floral City under the majestic canopy oaks over Orange Avenue adjacent to the residential district listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

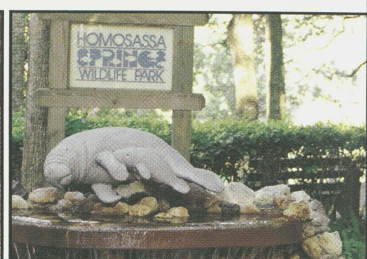
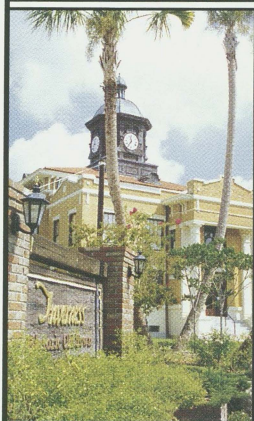
Next stop: downtown Inverness and the 1912 courthouse and the Historical Museum with records dating to 1887. Then, it's on to Crystal River to the Coastal Heritage Museum and the Indian burial grounds. Round out your trip in Homosassa at the remains of an 1800's sugar mill and the Printing Museum.

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**September 12-13****Live Oak**

2nd Annual Hot Cajun Nites. Filé, Gumbo Limbo, other major Cajun and Zydeco bands. Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park. (904) 364-2965.

**September 23-26****Sarasota**

Florida Association of Museums Annual Conference and Exposition. Four-day, three-night programming for museum professionals. (904) 222-6028.

**September 26-28****Lake Placid**

Caladium Festival. Tours include beautiful vistas of caladium plants and the downtown murals. (941) 465-4331.

**October 11****Quincy**

Quincyfest. Fine arts, crafts, games, historic tours, food and music. (904) 627-2346.

**October 12****Fort Myers**

Hispanic Heritage Festival. Entertainment, food, music dancing and crafts (admission fee). (941) 334-3942.

**Caladium Festival,****Lake Placid****October 18****Estero**

Koreshan Unity Solar Festival. A festival celebrating the birth of Dr. Cyrus Teed, founder of Koreshan Unity, a Florida Utopian community. (941) 992-2184.

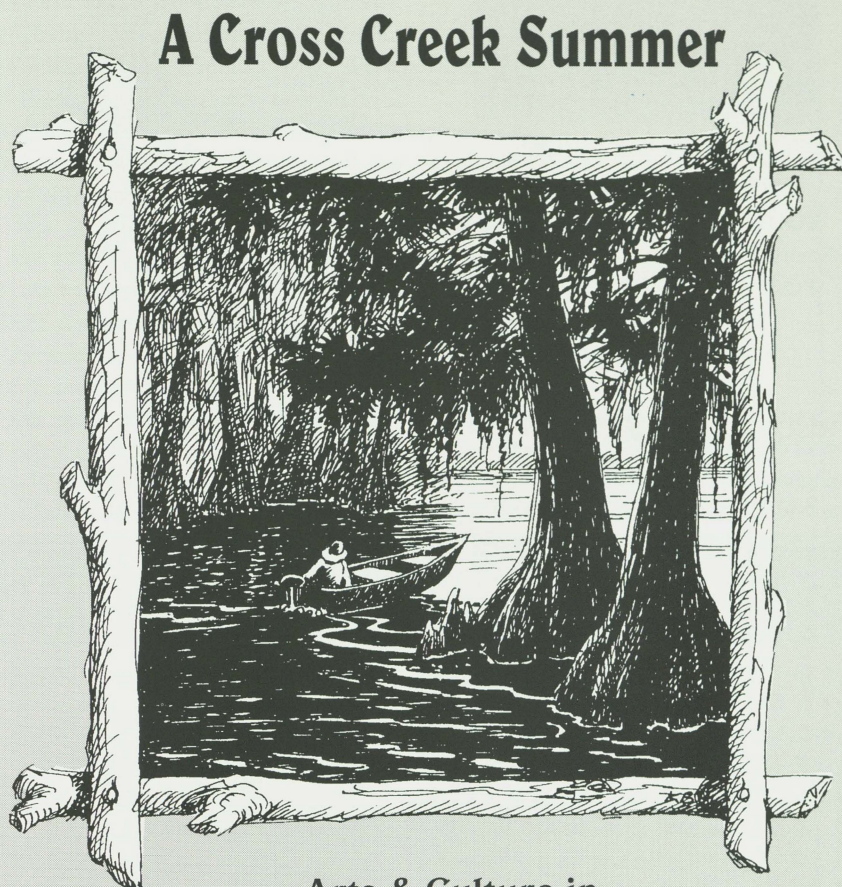
**October 25-26****Tampa**

CraftArt '97. Juried show celebrating the quality and diversity of fine craft art in clay, wood, fiber, metal, paper, glass and mixed media. University of Tampa and Florida Craftsmen, Inc. (813) 821-7391.

**November 1-2****Barberville**

Fall Country Jamboree. Folk arts, crafts, music, dance, storytelling, folkways and food. Pioneer Settlement for the Creative Arts. (904) 749-2959.

*Please call the number listed to verify dates. There may be an admission charge for some events. Listings for the calendar should be mailed at least four months in advance to Florida Heritage Magazine, 500 South Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250, or faxed to (850) 922-0496.*



## A Cross Creek Summer

**Arts & Culture in  
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' Florida**  
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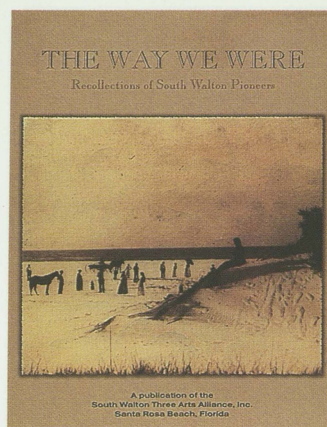
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For more information contact the City of Gainesville, Department of Cultural Affairs at 352.334.2197 or [cultural@atlantic.net](mailto:cultural@atlantic.net).

This program is sponsored in part by a Local Arts Agency grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, with matching funds from the City of Gainesville and the Alachua Board of County Commissioners.





**THE WAY WE WERE:  
RECOLLECTIONS OF  
SOUTH WALTON PIONEERS**

South Walton Three Arts Alliance, Inc.,  
PO Box 2042, Ft. Walton Beach:  
*Vitro Press, 1996*  
181 pages, Softcover

The South Walton Three Arts Alliance, publisher of this book, calls its newsletter "Scripts, Spotlights and Sketches." That could also be the subtitle of this nostalgic collection. Twenty local artists and writers present vignettes of a simpler life, before condos and discount malls invaded the northwest Florida coastal area the authors so graphically and realistically portray. Photographs, both old and recent, illustrate the book's ten sections. Drawings, diagrams, maps and portraits complete the picture. Each section describes one or more of the settlements along the twenty-mile stretch from Miramar Beach, on the western edge of the county, to Inlet Beach.

Scenes of an incredibly rustic life (early settlers lacked paved roads, plumbing and phone service well into the 1950s) are juxtaposed with character sketches and personal memories. The amenities of civilization were missing, so enterprising beach cottage owners stressed the value of the reclusive nature they offered to visitors. Sugar-sand beaches and high pine-covered coastal bluffs, coupled with low living and acquisition costs, provided the foundation for a way of life that has all but vanished. This lovely book serves as a token of esteem for the historic communities described within.

*Reviewed by Susanna B. Matthews,  
Bureau of Historic Preservation.*

**GHOSTS OF ST. AUGUSTINE**

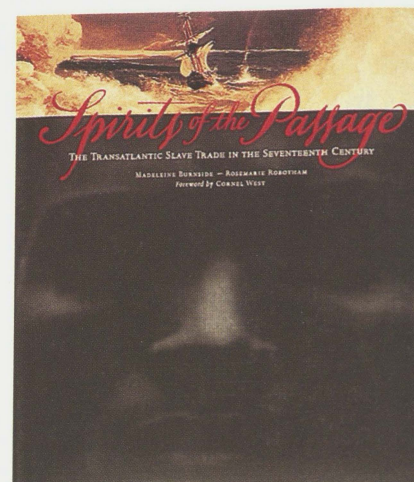
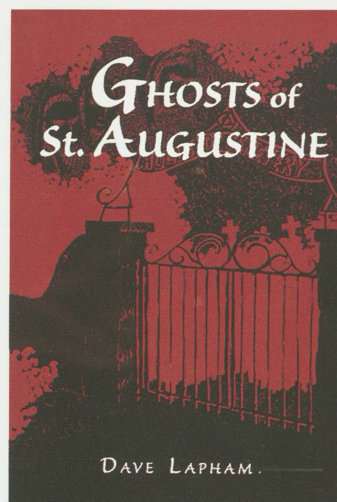
By Dave Lapham  
Sarasota: Pineapple Press, 1997  
ISBN 1-56164-123-5. 1  
68 pages, Softcover, \$8.95

Dave Lapham's book began when a bookstore salesperson remarked that someone should write a book about the ghosts of America's oldest city. The result is a fun and informative set of 24 easy-to-read stories about St. Augustine's spiritual inhabitants. Lapham's descriptions and personal interviews almost make the reader believe there are ghosts residing in the Ancient City. He includes the addresses of places one can visit to see or feel the supernatural, and have conversations with persons who say they have seen or felt the presence of ghosts.

Among the many storytellers in the book are John and Regina Dickerson of The Dickerson's House, an old home they restored to original condition. Soon after the Dickersons moved in, they said a "crazy guy" came to the door and asked them if they had "seen the old lady yet." He was just one of a number of people who swear there are ghosts in the house.

Illustrations and interesting historical facts add to the city's mystical atmosphere and to the mysteries behind its ghosts. It's as if the dark figures, not wishing to vanish from their one-time dwellings, are getting a chance to tell their stories.

*Reviewed by Tasba Watson,  
Bureau of Historic Preservation.*



**SPIRITS OF  
THE PASSAGE**

By Madeline Burnside;  
edited by Rosemarie Robotham.  
New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997  
ISBN 0-684-81819-1  
194 pages, Hardcover, \$35.00

Buried beneath the warm waters of the Florida Keys, the slave ship *Henrietta Marie* kept her secrets for almost three hundred years. Once discovered, the wreck slowly and steadily provided a look into a part of history many would like to forget: the slave trade. Madeline Burnside takes an honest and straightforward look into the causes and reasons why the slave trade developed and flourished. Not content with just recalling the story of this one ship through its artifacts, Dr. Burnside painstakingly investigates the history of the slave trade in Africa, England and the United States. Punctuating this history lesson are short, one to two-page personal stories of people involved in the trade. From the Barbarossa brothers who started the systematic marketing of African slaves to England, to the successful mutiny by Joseph Cinque, to the 1994 revisit of the slave dungeons in Ghana by reporter Renee Kemp, this volume provides glimpses into the sacrifices and triumphs of the human spirit. Accompanied by superior photography and etchings, this is one book that is as attractive as it is educational and motivating.

*Reviewed by Vicki Cole,  
Division of Historical Resources.*



V • I • S • I • T

## HISTORIC PENSACOLA VILLAGE...



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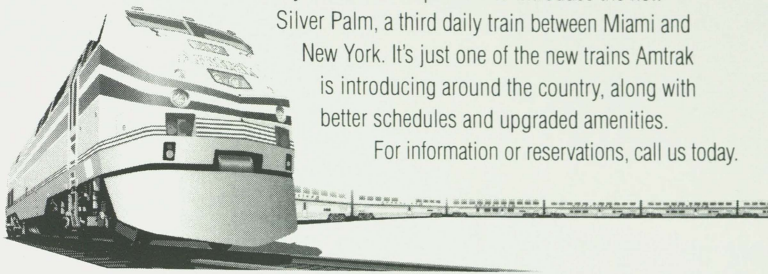
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Robert Rauschenberg, *New Reality*, 1996

Moscow Festival Ballet, *Paquita*, 1997



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## CHURCH AND STATE

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY PHILLIP M. POLLOCK

**T**he St. Johns River flows with a quiet pastoral stillness just behind the St. Mary's Church in residential Green Cove Springs. Palm fronds, stirred by soft river breezes, make the only noticeable sound, intensifying the tranquility of this sacred place.

The Episcopal church is small and old, built in 1878 when the town was named "Magnolia." Its dominant white steeple capped in red rises twice the height of the church. Crumbled layers of paint on intricate board and batten siding are visible signs of age but add to the sanctuary's eminence. Inside the church, banks of slender stained glass windows stretch vertically along the nave walls like spears tipped with color. Visitors whisper in deference to other guests or just the church itself, moved

by its quiet beauty. Behind the altar, figural representations of "Faith," "Charity" and "Hope" in brilliant panes of stained glass fill the narrow space with a kaleidoscope of lavender, scarlet, yellow and intense blue.

A plaque outside the door notes that the church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. It is reason to rejoice—Church and State coming together to protect a small community's historic character.

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*St. Mary's Church is located at the corner of St. Johns Avenue and Gum Street in residential Green Cove Springs. It is open for visitation every day of the week.*



# M A R K E T P L A C E

**ST. AUGUSTINE:** Visit the Gonzalez-Alvarez ("Oldest House"); St. Augustine Historical Society, 271 Charlotte St., St. Augustine, FL 32084. Portrays with authentic decor the lifestyles of its owners through three centuries and three cultures—Spanish, British and Territorial American. Open Daily. (904) 824-2872. Groups welcome.

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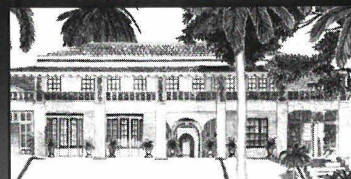
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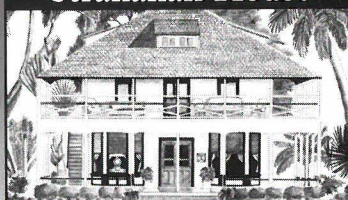
Nestled within the modern city of Fort Lauderdale are three historical treasures filled with architectural richness and colorful history. A visit to these sites is a journey through time, and an experience to remember!

### Bonnet House



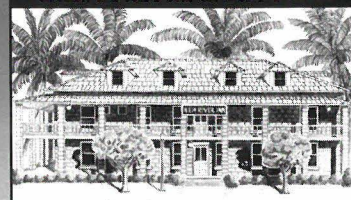
Located between the beach and Intracoastal Waterway just south of Sunrise Boulevard at 900 North Birch Road. (954) 563-5393

### Stranahan House



Located in Downtown Fort Lauderdale, at Las Olas Boulevard and SE 6th Avenue. (954) 524-4736

### Historical Museum



Located in the Historic District at 219 SW 2nd Avenue. (954) 463-4431

Bonnet House is a property of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. Funding provided by the Broward Cultural Affairs Council.



Illustrations by: Susan Dvorak

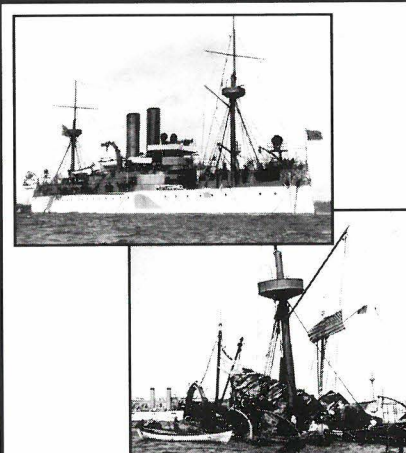
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## In Upcoming Issues...

### ■ Bonnet House

Visit this romantic vision of art, architecture and landscape nestled in urban Fort Lauderdale and the site of the kickoff of the twentieth anniversary of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation next year.

### ■ Amelia Island

This lovely barrier island off Florida's northeast coast boasts a 50-block historic district, an array of fine restaurants in historic buildings, charming bed and breakfast inns and the state's longest fishing pier.

### ■ Calusa Culture

Calusa Indians ruled all of South Florida when European explorers first arrived on the peninsula. Mound Key, a pristine island located off Fort Myers Beach, may have been the capitol of this early culture.

### ■ Highland Games

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